

From: Jay Cousins
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 6:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

As a web developer and Internet Service Provider since 1994, I have been a witness to the steady erosion of the competitive environment within the framework of the Internet and the software industry as a whole due to the business practices of Microsoft.

In particular, Microsoft has used its licensing agreements to unfairly erode its competitor's market share. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the web browser category of software. The most egregious example, or at least the example that affected the most end users, is that of the Netscape web browser.

In order to restore some measure of competition and fairness to the web browser market, I suggest that the following become part of the final settlement agreement with Microsoft:

1. That three or four of the web browsers with the largest user bases (excluding Microsoft's) be included in all future distributions of Microsoft operating systems and any other software sold by Microsoft that includes a web browser. These browsers should be available as icons on the desktop or in exactly the same manner as any Microsoft browser that is being offered.

2. Microsoft shall be mandated to share, in open source manner, completely and fully, all operating system components that work to integrate any Microsoft browser with a Microsoft operating system. Such sharing to be monitored by the Justice Department and a panel of experts established for the purpose of assuring compliance. This sharing to be without constraint on the part of Microsoft with regard to competitive concerns or issues related to any third party acquiring the knowledge necessary to implement browser software that takes full advantage of a Microsoft operating system; even though such knowledge is considered proprietary by Microsoft.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

Jay Cousins, General Manager
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